G. DOULATRAM AND SONS (HONGKONG) LTD: INDIAN TRADER IS ACCUSED OF FRAUD, DECEIT AND DISHONESTY

To the ever-dwindling population of the ethnic Indians of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the name Vashi Doulatram (VD to his friends) must be a blast from the past.

Because not very much has been heard of this gentleman, publicly, since 1996.

But it is said that that which goes around comes around.

And VD seems to resurface, from time to time, in the same way that it is said that one cannot cure certain diseases, only arrest them.

In the most recent event, concerning this once doyen of the ethnic Indians of the HKSAR, VD's HKSAR trading company, G. Doulatram and Sons (Hongkong) Ltd, has been sued by Ecobank Ghana Ltd in the HKSAR High Court.

Ecobank has fired off High Court Action Number 1294, whose Endorsement of Claim appears to be self-explanatory and requires no input from this medium:

'1. The Plaintiff's claim against the Defendant is that, at the material time, it actively participated and/or knowingly assisted in a fraudulent, deceitful and dishonest design against the Plaintiff namely the procuring of a transfer of US\$245,000 (the "**Funds**") from the Plaintiff to an account maintained by the Defendant in Hong Kong by the use of a forged payment instruction. As a consequence, the Defendant became constructive trustee for the Plaintiff of all moneys received by it pursuant to, referable to or otherwise howsoever relating directly or indirectly to the Funds including but not limited to all moneys received by the Defendant or other parties at the Defendant's order whether directly or indirectly through agents or nominees of the Defendant. By reason of the matters aforesaid:-

- (a) the Defendant is liable to account to the Plaintiff for all such moneys; and/or
- (b) the Plaintiff is entitled to trace all such moneys into the hands of the Defendant, the Credit Agricole Indosuez, Hong Kong Branch being the banker of the Defendant into which the Funds were paid or elsewhere as it may be found; and/or
- (c) the Plaintiff is entitled to a declaration as to what sums in the hands of the Defendant and the Credit Agricole Indosuez, Hong Kong Branch are assets of the Plaintiff; and/or
- (d) the Plaintiff is entitled to all due accounts and inquiries as aforesaid and payment to the Plaintiff of the sum found due to the Plaintiff; and/or
- *(e) the Plaintiff is entitled to interest on the aforesaid sums pursuant to section 48 of the High Court Ordinance.*

'2. Further and/or in the alternative, the Defendant having received the Funds or other moneys or other funds which are the Plaintiff's property in equity or the traceable proceeds thereof, has been unjustly enriched and is under a liability to make restitution thereof to the Plaintiff as money had and received to the use of the Plaintiff.'

One does not have to be very clever to understand that which Ecobank Ghana Ltd is suggesting, in no uncertain terms, in its claim against G. Doulatram and Sons (Hongkong) Ltd.

While VD is known to be extremely rich, he is, also, about 72 years old; and, it is said that, with age, comes the inevitable loss of memory as well as the inevitable loss of virility.

VD was, at one time, known in some circles as the 'Wallah or Wanchai' – an important personage in the exciting tourist area of the HKSAR – and he was a frequent visitor to the Wanchai strip, which is similar to the Las Vegas Strip, minus the (legal) gambling.

He is/was, also, a close friend of Mr Obi Mohan, the former Managing Director of Mohan's Property and Investment Ltd, a former publicly listed company, which used to be quoted on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd.

However, that was before Mr Obi Mohan was incarcerated in Stanley for fraud ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

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